

August 11, 20201 UPDATE for SEVIS Students

The following information was received from the Student Exchange Visitor Program (EVP).

Please direct all questions regarding closure of Stevens Henager College and/or transfer of your SEVIS record to another institution to the **SEVP Response Center (SRC)**, contact info is SEVP@ice.dhs.gov, **phone numbers are 703-603-3400 or 800-892-4829**. Once SHC has finalized their voluntary withdrawal,* the SRC will be able to assist in completing any transfer requests.

Any additional lost benefit questions can be directed to USCIS as the granting authority and can find their contact info at www.uscis.gov.

Additionally, you may also go to SiTS – search “[find SEVP Certified School](#)” [studyinthestates.dhs.gov/school-search] to find another institution if you intend to continue studies in the US.

*In creating your OPT Recommendation I-20 *your school indicated that they would support you by maintaining the SEVIS record through your Optional Practical Training (OPT)*. Since there is no one left with SHC to manage your record or provide that supervision you will not be able to continue in your Optional Practical Training (OPT).

From 8 CFR 214.2(f):

(ii) Additional DSO responsibilities. A student must have a recommendation from his or her DSO in order to apply for OPT. When a DSO recommends a student for OPT, the school assumes the added responsibility for maintaining the SEVIS record of that student for the entire period of authorized OPT, consistent with paragraph (f)(12) of this section.

(A) Prior to making a recommendation, the DSO at the educational institution of the student's most recent enrollment must ensure that the student is eligible for the given type and period of OPT and that the student is aware of the student's responsibilities for maintaining status while on OPT. Prior to recommending a 24-month OPT extension under paragraph (f)(10)(ii)(C) of this section, the DSO at the educational institution of the student's most recent enrollment must certify that the student's degree being used to qualify that student for the 24-month OPT extension, as shown in SEVIS or official transcripts, is a bachelor's, master's, or doctorate degree with a degree code that is contained within a category on the current STEM Designated Degree Program List at the time the recommendation is made. A DSO may recommend a student for a 24-month OPT extension under paragraph (f)(10)(ii)(C) of this section only if the Form I-983 or successor form described in paragraph (f)(10)(ii)(C)(7) of this section has been properly completed and executed by the student and prospective employer. A DSO may not recommend a student for an OPT extension under paragraph (f)(10)(ii)(C) of this section if the practical training would be conducted by an employer who has failed to meet the requirements under paragraphs (f)(10)(ii)(C)(5) through (9) of this section or has failed to provide the required assurances of paragraph (f)(10)(ii)(C)(10) of this section.

(B) The DSO must update the student's SEVIS record with the DSO's recommendation for OPT before the student can apply to USCIS for employment authorization. The DSO will indicate in SEVIS whether the OPT employment is to be full-time or part-time, or for a student seeking a recommendation for a 24-month OPT extension under paragraph (f)(10)(ii)(C) of this section whether the OPT employment meets the minimum hours requirements described in paragraph (f)(10)(ii)(C)(8) of this section, and note in SEVIS the OPT start and end dates.

(C) The DSO must provide the student with a signed, dated Form I-20 or successor form indicating that OPT has been recommended.